

**Egyptian Regional Human Rights Authority
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Human Rights Authority (HRA) was held at Pagliai's Pizza Meeting Room, 509 South Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL. Chairperson Clarence Russell called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and read the confidentiality statement. A quorum was not present initially for open session, but Rebecca Lewey arrived at 5:53 p.m. and all ratifications and new case openings were reviewed and approved by her. A quorum was present for the remainder of the meeting.

Members Present: Clarence Russell, Sue Barfield, Pam O'Connor, Ginger McBride and Rebecca Lewey

Members Absent: Mary McMahan, Jim Livesay, Al Farmer and Paul Jones

Staff Present: Kim Conway

Guests: None

Minutes: Pam O'Conner made a motion to approve the September 24, 2014 meeting minutes. Ginger McBride seconded and it carried.

Communications: None.

Ratifications:

15-110-9008 Shawnee Community College – This case was an emergency case opening with votes from Clarence, Sue and Paul on 10/15/14. Ratification of case acceptance was tabled until the next meeting when a quorum without a conflict of interest is present. Ginger McBride, Pam O'Conner, Mary McMahan and Rebecca Lewey all have a conflict of interest with this case and must abstain from voting therefore case opening votes must be obtained from Al Farmer and Jim Livesay.

15-110-9009 Williamson County Special Education Services – This case was opened under emergency case opening. Jim Livesay has a conflict of interest and must abstain from voting. Ginger McBride made a motion to ratify the case opening. Clarence Russell seconded and it carried.

New Complaints:

15-110-9010 School District – This case involves the same student as 15-110-9009. The board discussed if an additional case should be opened against the school district as they contract out the services provided by Williamson County Special Education Services. Pam O'Conner made a motion to open the case for investigation, Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

Other New Business: The board scheduled meeting dates and locations for 2015. The board decided to change the meeting night to Thursdays to accommodate everyone's schedule.

Unfinished Business: A motion was made by Pam O’Conner to enter closed session at 5:33 p.m. Sue Barfield seconded and it carried. The board decided that since Paul Jones was absent, there was no need to hold two closed sessions as scheduled since no one else that was present had any conflicts of interest with cases. The following summary of items was discussed in closed session: Case progress was reviewed for cases # 14-110-9015, 15-110-9002, 15-110-9003, 15-110-9004, 15-110-9006, 15-110-9008, 15-110-9009, 13-110-9039, 14-110-9017, 14-110-9018, 14-110-9019, 14-110-9020, 15-110-9001, 15-110-9005 and 15-110-9007. Draft reports were reviewed for 14-110-9006 and 14-110-9013. Case closures were considered for cases #13-110-9035, 14-110-9011 and 14-110-9012. Sue Barfield made a motion to return to open session at 7:24 p.m. having taken no action in closed session, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

Case Progress Reports:

14-110-9015 Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center – The site investigation was completed on September 4th. Once the information has been reviewed, it will be ready for report.

15-110-9002 Choate Mental Health and Developmental Center - The site investigation was completed on September 19th. Further information is needed. A second site visit will be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9003 Lawrence Correctional - The site investigation was completed September 17th. Once the information has been reviewed, it will be ready for report.

15-110-9004 Wabash County Jail – The site investigation was completed November 13th. The chart that is still at Chester Mental Health needs to be reviewed. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9006 Department of Human Services (DHS) – The site investigation needs to be scheduled. Kim Conway is determining who within DHS that could be scheduled with. The site investigation will most likely be phone conferences with employees in charge of determining where a patient remanded to DHS will receive treatment at. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9008 Shawnee Community College – Ginger McBride, Rebecca Lewey and Pam O’Conner left the meeting during the discussion of this case as they have a conflict of interest and returned once discussion had concluded. The complaint alleges that a student was told he could not take classes at main campus and was required to complete a mental health examination before attending classes. The site investigation needs to be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9009 Williamson County Special Education – The complaint alleges that accommodations were not made for a student with a disability, the agency failed to communicate with a guardian, the agency breached confidentiality and that a student was not allowed to enroll in certain classes due to her disability. The board discussed whether or not a case should also be opened against the school district that contracts services from Williamson County Special Education. The site investigation needs to be scheduled. The case is still under investigation.

13-110-9039 - Chester Mental Health –Kim Conway checked with the OIG on the status of their investigation regarding this same recipient and incident. Its investigation has not yet concluded. The HRA may need to review the outcome of the outside investigation before concluding the case since the allegation involves staff failing to prevent injury that resulted in the OIG investigation being opened. The case is still under investigation.

14-110-9017 Chester Mental Health – The chart review was completed. The case is ready for report.

14-110-9018 Chester Mental Health – The chart review and staff interviews need to be completed. The recipient was transferred to another facility and therefore the records will have to be requested from that facility. The case is still under investigation.

14-110-9019 Chester Mental Health – The chart review needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

14-110-9020 Chester Mental Health – The interviews with therapists were completed. The HRA still needs to interview other staff and review the chart. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9001 Chester Mental Health – The chart review needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9005 Chester Mental Health – The chart review needs to be completed. The case is still under investigation.

15-110-9007 Chester Mental Health – The chart review needs to be completed. The recipient was transferred to another facility. Kim Conway attempted to obtain a release of information for the new facility to release records but the recipient has been discharged. Kim then sent a letter to a community address that was provided to her by the recipient initially and also attempted to contact the recipient using an email address he provided. There has been no response yet. The case is still under investigation.

Report of Findings:

14-110-9006 Chester Mental Health – The draft report was reviewed by the board. No changes were suggested. Pam O’Conner made a motion to approve the draft report as stated, Ginger McBride seconded and it carried.

14-110-9013 Chester Mental Health – The draft report was reviewed by the board. No changes were suggested. Sue Barfield made a motion to approve the draft report as stated, Pam O’Conner seconded and it carried.

Case Closures:

13-110-9035 Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) – Kim Conway drafted a letter to HFS requesting additional information after the July meeting. A follow up letter was sent on September 24th with a deadline of November 5th to respond. When no response was received, Kim Conway called the contact person at HFS who informed her that he had given it to their attorney for review a deadline of November 12th was set for HFS to respond. A final call was made on this date and the contact person at HFS was going to check with the attorney and call Kim Conway back prior to the meeting start time, no response was received. Ginger McBride made a motion to close the case and make an enforcement referral. Sue Barfield seconded and it carried.

14-110-9011 Chester Mental Health – Chester Mental Health contacted Kim Conway stating they were working on the response and requested an extension of time to respond. Sue Barfield made a motion to table case closure to allow additional time to respond, Pam O’Conner seconded and it carried.

14-110-9012 Chester Mental Health – Chester Mental Health contacted Kim Conway stating they were working on the response and requested an extension of time to respond. Ginger McBride made a motion to table case closure to allow additional time to respond, Rebecca Lewey seconded and it carried.

Other Unfinished Business:

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2015 at Union County Counseling, 202 South St., Anna, IL

Pam O’Conner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Clarence Russell seconded and it carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam O'Connor, Secretary